

REMARKS

Claims 6-11 and 18-20 are pending in this application.

Applicants have amended claims 6, 7, 9, 18, and 19, and have canceled claims 1-5 and 12-17. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Barry et al.* (“*Barry*”) (US 5,859,711) (as noted above, claims 1-5 and 12-17 have been canceled). As will be explained in more detail below, the *Barry* reference does not disclose each and every feature of independent claims 6 and 18, as amended herein.

Applicants have amended independent claims 6 and 18 to distinguish the claimed subject matter from that shown in the *Barry* reference. When there are four print jobs of 50 copies, the system of *Barry* parses the jobs such that, for example, the first two print jobs go to a first print engine and the second two print jobs go to a second print engine (see column 5, lines 21-29). Alternatively, if the first and second print engines have 100 sheet paper supplies and there are two print jobs, a first print job at 150 sheets and a second print job at 50 sheets, the system allocates the first print job at 100 sheets to the first print engine, and allocates the remaining 50 sheets of the first print job and the 50 sheets of the second print job to the second print engine (see column 5, lines 29-35). Thus, while the system disclosed in *Barry* divides and allocates print jobs to multiple printers, it does so *without taking into account images included in the print jobs*. As such, multiple print jobs including an identical image to be printed are not necessarily allocated to one printer in the system of *Barry*.

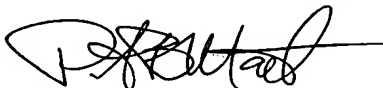
Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, the *Barry* reference does not disclose each and every feature of independent claims 6 and 18, as amended herein.

Accordingly, independent claims 6 and 18, as amended herein, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Barry*. Claims 7-11, each of which ultimately depends from claim 6, and claims 19 and 20, each of which depends from claim 18, are likewise patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Barry* for at least the same reasons set forth above regarding the applicable independent claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of claims 6-11 and 18-20, as amended herein, and submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 749-6902. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. ITECP013).

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE PENILLA & GENCARELLA, L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. B. Martine', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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